REMARKS

Applicant is filing this Amendment and Response in reply to the Official Action of February 12, 2007. Applicant believes that this Amendment and Response is fully responsive to the Official Action for at least the reasons set forth herein.

At the onset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time to speak with Applicant's representative in a telephone interview regarding Claim 26 and the Restriction Requirement. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the Restriction Requirement of October 12, 2006, included a typographical error. Claim 26 should have been part of Group I, the elected group. Accordingly, Claim 26 has been listed as "original".

Additionally, Applicant notes that Claims 1 and 19 have been amended herewith. Specifically, the subject matter of Claim 17 has been added to Claims 1 and 19. No new matter has been added to the application by the aforementioned amendment. For example, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to pages 5 and 6 of the application.

Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references. In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Pub. 2004/0094630 (hereinafter "Tani"). Claims 5-7 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tani. Claims 3 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as been unpatentable over Tani in view of Guerrero et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,739,512 (hereafter "Guerrero"). Claims 15-17 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as been unpatentable over Tani in view Easton, U.S. Patent No. 6,779,726.

Applicant submits that none of the references suggest that the indication is positioned at a location along the tape at which a predetermined portion of the component reel has been depleted, indicating a percentage use of the component reel.

Tani purportedly teaches a management system where information regarding use is embedded in a top tape, part mounting tape, or components, wherein the components are located on a component reel fed into a machine. The identification tags are printed on the mounting tape to identify the number of chip parts from the first chip part to the last chip part, identifying each chip part. The identified tags are uniformly deposed on the tape. The identification tags can be **indirectly** used to identify when the tape is running out. For example if the tape has 1000 parts on the roll, when a reader detects part number 999, the system will deduce that there is 1 part left on the roll. This requires that the system know the exact number of parts on a roll.

In contrast, in the claimed invention, the identification marks directly indicate the remaining portion of the tape roll, i.e., in percentage. There is no need for the marks to be placed uniformly across the entire roll. The marks are only placed in a predetermined point on the roll to indicate that the end of the tape is coming, i.e., 80 or 90% used.

Therefore, while the prior art is also used to identify a state of use and predict the end of the reel, the identification process and the identification marks are different. The present invention eliminates the need to include the identification marks throughout the tape. Easton and Guerrero fail to cure the above-identified deficiency.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1 and 19 are patentable over the cited references; the references fail to teach, suggest or render obvious each and every limitation of the claims.

Applicant submits that Claims 2-16 and 18 are patentably distinct from the cited combination based at least upon the above-identified analysis in view of their dependency, whether directly or indirectly, from Claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Claims 5, 7, 10, and 12 are separately patentable over the cited combination based at least upon the following additional analysis. None of the references suggest that the signal comprises an identifier associated with the transmitter and the computer determines the identifier of the type of component reel (or machine) based upon the identifier associated with the transmitter.

In Tani, the identification tag includes the identifier of the component reel and machine. Thus, there is no need to include the transmitter identifier or have the computer deduce the identifier for the component reel and machine based upon the identifier of the transmitter, when the information is directly available from the identification tag. Therefore, it is not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have this feature.

Additionally, Applicant further submits that Claim 3 is separately patentable over the cited references because the references do not teach or suggest that the message comprises an e-mail, as recited. Specifically, the Examiner cites Guerrero as a teaching. However, Guerrero does not even mention an e-mail. At best, Guerrero suggest using wireless communication to send the message.

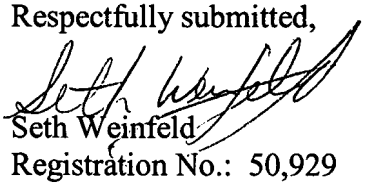
Furthermore, Applicant submits that independent Claims 26 and 27 are patentably distinct from the cited reference. Applicant notes that the Examiner did not address any of the limitations in Claims 26 and 27. Although Claim 27 is included in the statement of the rejection at paragraph 7, the body of the rejection does not include an application of the prior art to the limitations of Claim 27. Even if the rejection addressed the features of the claim, Applicant

submits that the references fail to teach all of the limitations of the claim. If a new Official Action issues with a rejection of Claims 26 and 27 using new art, Applicant expects the Official Action to be a non-final rejection.

Based upon the forgoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 19 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e). Applicant also respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of Claims 3, 5-7, 10-12, 15, 16, 18, and 27 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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